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Ms. SERIES.

G.O. No 1703

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[Despatch Abstract.]

Cooperative Societies

K.R. Karanth

Copy of letter dated 27th July 1931, from Mr. K.R. Karanth, President, Puttur Taluk Forest Villages Committee & Secretary, South Kanara Landholders' Association, Mangalore, to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras.

I have the honour to submit by separate post five copies of a report of a non-official Committee on the conditions of Life and Agriculture in 66 forest villages of the Puttur Taluk, South Kanara District, as also the proceedings of a meeting of the villagers on the said report printed therein.

Though in the first instance the object of the enquiry was in connection with the coming re-settlement the disclosures made in the course of the enquiry are of a so serious nature that I venture to request Government to be pleased to give their serious attention to the various matters contained in the report and the proceedings thereon

As these matters relate to various departments of Government I am addressing you on the subject and have enclosed five copies.

Will you be good enough to let me know what action, if any, Government intend m taking in the matter?

Report of a People's Committee on the Conditions of Life and Agriculture in the Forest Villages of the Puttur Taluk in the South Kanara District.

Proceedings of a meeting of the villagers of the forest and sub-ghat areas of the Puttur Taluk held on Sunday, the 17th May 1931, in the Board Higher Elementary School, Beltangady.

Present: Messrs. Dharmastal Manjaya Hegde, ex- M. L. C., U. C. S. Bhat, M. L. C., M. Shiva Rau, President, Puttur Taluk Board, Beltangady Mangesh Rao, Sesha Bhat Bhide, K. R. Karant, ex-M. L. C., and 88 others.

Mr. M. Shiva Rao, President, Puttur Taluk Board, was unanimously voted to the chair.

On behalf of the Committee appointed by the meeting held at Dharmastal on 25th January last to investigate into the local conditions of the forest and sub-ghat villages of the Puttur taluk and to prepare a report in connection with the next resettlement of land-revenue in this district, Mr. K. R. Karant, B. A. LL. B., presented the unanimous report of the Committee and explained the same in Canarese.

Mr. Krishna Padvatnaya proposed and Mr. Narayan Bhat Bhide seconded that "Ujre" may be included in the special group of villages dealt with in the report. The proposal was put to vote and lost, 7 voting for and 12 against.

Mr. K. Anantha Pai proposed that "Nyayaturf" be similarly added but there was no seconder.

Mr. K. Anantha Bhat proposed and Mr. A. Nagappaya seconded that Beltangady be added. The proposal being put to the meeting was lost by a majority of votes.

The next point that was specifically placed for the consideration of the meeting was about the recommendation that assessment should be collected in four equal kists, viz, February to May. Yet another proposal was that 50% may be paid in April instead of in March and that the present three kists may be continued. One of the members proposed that there should be five kists from January to May. There was a fourth proposal that there should be four kists from March to June.

All these proposals being separately put to vote the majority voted for four kists—March to June.

Mr. Laila Dharnappa *alias* Yuvaraja Hegde's proposal that it should be urged that free grazing should be allowed in the reserve forests of the villages covered by the report was passed.

With the amendments passed above, the report was adopted unanimously and it was resolved that the report be sent to the concerned authorities.

The following committee was appointed with power to do everything in connection with the report and to take such further steps as may be necessary to carry out the objects of the report.

M. R. Ry. 1. K. R. Karant Avl., B. A., LL. B.
" 2. Sesha Bhat Bhide Avl., B. A., B. L.,
" 3. Beltangady Mangesh Rao, Avl.
" 4. Gore Anantha Bhat Avl., and
" 5. M. Shiva Rao Avl.

Mr. Karant was appointed President, and Mr. Mangesha Rao, Secretary to the Committee. The Committee shall have power to co-opt. others as members from time to time.

Resolved unanimously that the Committee be thanked for their selfless labour at the sacrifice of time and money.

With a vote of thanks to the chair the meeting terminated.

(Sd.) *M. Shiva Rao.*

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Report of a People's Committee on the conditions of Life and Agriculture in the Forest Villages of the Puttur Taluk in the South Kanara District.

At a public meeting held on the 25th January 1931 at Dharmastal of the villagers of about 50 villages of the forest and sub-ghat areas of the Puttur Taluk under the chairmanship of M. R. Ry. Dharmastal Manjaya Hegde, Avl., ex-M. L. C., in which over 200 villagers were present, the following resolution was unanimously *passed:*—

"Resolved that the following Committee be appointed to tour round and study the conditions of the following villages and others which are adjacent and similar to them and submit a representation in writing to the Special Settlement Officer as early as possible with a view to make the following villages into a separate group and reduce the existing rates of assessment in them."

"The villagers are requested to give financial and other help to the said Committee."

"The Committee are authorised to co-opt. the persons named against each of the groups when inspecting the respective villages and also such other persons to be members of the Committee as they may deem fit."

Names of members of the Committee:—

Messrs. (1) Kota Ramakrishna Karant, B. A., LL. B., Vakil, Mangalore and ex-M. L. C.

(2) Sesha Bhat Bhide, B. A., B. L., Vakil, Mangalore.

(3) Beltangady Mangesh Rao, Vakil and Taluk Board Member, Puttur, and Honorary Secretary of the Puttur Taluk Landholders' Association.

(4) Gore Anantha Bhat, Landholder and Secretary of the Mundaje Landholders' Union.

Mr. Mangesh Rao will be the Secretary to the Committee.

"Names of Villages:—

I. INDABETTU GROUP. (1) Indabettu, (2) Savanal, (3) Nada, (4) Laila, (5) Navur, (6) Kanyadi, (7) Malavantige, (8) Mittabagilu, (9) Kadirudiavara and (10) Koyyur.—Committee Member, Mr. Manjappa Pandi.

II. DHARMASTALA GROUP. (1) Dharmastala, (2) Mundaje, (3) Kalmanja, (4) Chibidre, (5) Thotathadi, (6) Charmadi, (7) Neria, (8) Puduvettu, (9) Patrame, (10) Belal, (11) Nidle, (12) Kalanja and (13) Ujre.—Committee Member, Mr. Dharmastal Manjaya Hegde.

III. HATHIADKA GROUP. (1) Hathiadka, (2) Kaukradi, (3) Shibaje, (4) Shishila, (5) Rekya, (6) Nujibalthila, (7) Nelliadi, (8) Golithottu and (9) Kokkada.—Committee Member, Mr. Chiplunkar Ganapathi Bhat.

IV. SUBRAMANIA GROUP. (1) Subramania, (2) Yenekal, (3) Ainakidu, (4) Kombar and (5) Bilinele.—Committee Member, Mr. Kushalappa Gowda, Member.

V. KOLLAMOGARU GROUP. (1) Kollamogaru, (2) Balagod, (3) Kaimakar, (4) Nalkur, (5) Guttigar, (6) Devachalla, (7) Madapadi and (8) Harihara-Pallathadka.—Committee Member, Mr. Kattada Govindaiya.

VI. KADABA GROUP. (1) Kadaba, (2) Kodimbala, (3) Bantra, (4) Shiradi, (5) Shirivagilu, (6) Konaje, (7) Balpa and (8) Ichlampadi.—Committee Member, Mr. Thimmaya Ariga Jaini.

VII. SAMPAJE GROUP. (1) Sampaje, (2) Aranthodu, (3) Thodikana, (4) Aletti, (5) Ajjavara, (6) Ubradka Mittoor and (7) Markanja.—Committee Member Mr. M. Aithappa Rai, Secretary, Sullia Co-operative Societies' Union."

2. The Committee met at Mangalore on 1—2—1931 and decided to issue notices to the Committee Members in charge of the different groups to collect the information mentioned therein and also to request the villagers to appear before the Committee for examination. The forms of notices to be sent to the proposed witnesses as well as to the Committee Members were drafted and approved. 1,000 forms of the latter were printed and circulated among the villagers in the areas concerned through the Committee Members in the months of March and April.

3. The dates on which the Committee was to inspect the various groups were fixed and published from time to time in the "Rastra Bhandu," a local Canarese Weekly, as well as intimated to the villagers beforehand by means of the aforesaid notices. A slight modification in the dates and the grouping had to be made however and the number of camps had to be increased to suit the convenience of the witnesses.

The following is a list of the camps where and the dates on which the Committee met at the respective places. The number of witnesses who were examined and whose statements were taken at the different camps are noted against each.

Serial No.	Date or dates of visit.	Name of Camp.	No. of Witnesses examined.
1	3rd & 4th April	Sampaje	8
2	5th April	Sullia	4
3	16th "	Guttigar	2
4	17th "	Kollamogaru	8
5	18th "	Subramania	7
6	18th & 19th April	Kadaba	17
7	20th April	Hathiadka	1
8	21st "	Nidle	2
9	22nd "	Dharmastal	nil.
10	23rd "	Laila	3
11	24th "	Indabettu	6
12	25th "	Laila	1
13	9th May	Shirivagilu	nil.
14	11th & 12th May	Mithabagilu & Malavantige	"
15	14th May	Navur	

The total number of persons thus examined and whose statements were recorded is 59 but the Committee held informal talks with the villagers wherever possible. As far as possible a portion of the time in every camp was utilised for actually inspecting the holdings of the villagers to gain information on the spot.

4. The Committee met finally at Beltangady on the 17th May 1931 with a view to discuss and finally pass this report.

5. Mr. Molahalli Shiva Rao, President of the Puttur Taluk Board, whose experience of the Taluk is second to that of none, was co-opted a member of the Committee and was present during the final meeting.

6. The main object of our enquiry was to learn as best as we could the conditions of living and of agriculture in the villages mentioned in the resolution as well as such others which we found in the course of our enquiry to be similar to those specified above and to see how far such conditions have improved or worsened compared with those which must have obtained at the time when the present Settlement was introduced into these areas, namely Fasli 1314, or thereabouts.

The area in respect of which we have decided to deal with in this report, as a result of our enquiry, consists of:—

(1) All the Fourth Group villages of this taluk i. e., villages in which the 'wet' and 'dry' lands have been classed in the fourth group. We could not obtain a consolidated list of these in the revenue offices but from an inspection of the individual adangals of the villages of the taluk we find they are the following:—

(1) Navur, (2) Kanyadi, (3) Laila, (4) Nada, (5) Kadirudyavara, (6) Indabettu, (7) Mittabagilu, (8) Malavantige, (9) Charmady, (10) Thotathady, (11) Neria, (12) Kalanja, No. 23, (13) Shishila, (14) Patrame, (15) Kokkada, (16) Nidle, (17) Puduvettu, (18) Chibidre, (19) Shirivagilu, (20) Konaje, (21) Shiradi, (22) Nelyadi, (23) Ichlampadi. (24) Kaukradi, (25) Rekya, (26) Hathiadka, (27) Shibaje, (28) Konalu, (29) Bantra, (30) Kadaba, (31) Kutrupadi, (32) Renjaladi, (33) Nujibalthila, (34) Bilanile, (35) Aithur, (36) Kombar, (37) Balya, (38) Ainakidu, (39) Subramanya, (40) Yenakal, (41) Kenya, (42) Balpa, (43) Nallurkemraje, (44) Markanja, (45) Madapadi, (46) Kalmakar, (47) Balagod, (48) Kollamogaru, (49) Hariharapallathadka, (50) Devachalla, (51) Guttigaru, (52) Sampaje, (53) Thodikana, (54) Aranthodu and (55) Nalkur. and

(2) The following eleven villages adjoining them:

(1) Savanal, (2) Mundaje, (3) Kalmanja, (4) Belal, (5) Dharmastala, (6) Koyyur, (7) Golithottu, (8) Kodimabala, (9) Nekkiladi, No. 102, (10) Ubradkamittur and (11) Aletti.

Though the latter class of villages are in the Third Group we find that the conditions now obtaining in them are similar to those in the former class and we have therefore included them. The area thus formed is a belt of about 75 miles in length from north to south and about 15 to 20 miles in width from east to west and contained according to the Census of 1921 a population of 51,156.

Decline of Population.

7. CENSUS FIGURES:—In the period succeeding the introduction of the settlement in this area, judging from almost every point of view, we find that conditions of life and agriculture have gone from bad to worse. We shall deal with them one by one.

The serious decline in the health of the people living in the area:—The chief reasons for this may be ascribed to malaria and the increasing poverty of the people living in this area. If we take the census figures of these villages since 1901 we find either that population has actually declined as in the case

of some villages, or the rate of progress has been so much arrested as compared with the increase of population in the District as a whole or with the average increase of population in the Madras Presidency. Cases of some villages in which the population has actually declined are given below:—

Serial No.	Village	Years. 1901	1911	1921
1.	Ubradkamittur	896	761	801
2.	Golithottu	903	676	693
3.	Madapady	380	320	329
4.	Shirivagilu	404	118	115
5.	Nalkur	361	348	355
6.	Ainakidu	295	304	285
7.	Kadaba	997	926	941
8.	Rekya'	443	365	392
9.	Shishila	373	—	342
10.	Ichlampadi	585	463	444
11.	Kokkada	1566	—	1474
12.	Thotathadi	655	—	595
13.	Charmadi	937	—	894
14.	Nidle	1073	—	922
15.	Mithabagilu	1291	—	1196
16.	Kanyadi	623	—	584
17.	Navur	549	—	534
18.	Koyyur	1628	1308	1308
19.	Malavanthige	851	—	730
20.	Savanal	756	—	715
21.	Patrame	898	—	704
22.	Neria	911	—	861
23.	Kalmanja	1042	—	965

NOTE:—The book of village statistics for 1911 strangely omits the villages n as blank above.

We regret that the figures for the Census of 1931, which was held in h last, were not available to us. We have, however, to notice in connection with igures for the last Census that they include a considerable population of labourers had come from the Western parts of the District in connection with the harvest- of the Suggi crops and also workers in the areca gardens who are not the permanent inhabitants of the area, but who had come temporarily for the season. We are afraid therefore that the census figures of 1931 would not be accurate in regard to the actual residential population of this area.

8. BIRTH AND DEATH STATISTICS:—If we see the birth and death rates in some of these villages for which we were able to get the statistics, we find serious cause for apprehension. We venture to state that the figures of births and deaths are a more accurate index of the real growth or decline of population than the Census figures which due to various causes, are often vitiated. We give below the vital statistics for 17 villages of this area for the years 1925 to 1928:—

Name of Village	1925		1926		1927		1928	
	Births	Deaths	Births	Deaths	Births	Deaths	Births	Deaths
Navur	13	16	17	28	11	19	13	32
Nada	20	46	25	76	18	15	31	59
Kanyadi	13	40	13	25	10	12	13	32
Laila	45	81	34	71	47	40	62	77

Name of Village	1925		1926		1927		1928	
	Births	Deaths	Births	Deaths	Births	Deaths	Births	Deaths
Koyyur	55	80	47	80	69	64	66	99
Kalmanja	28	47	38	39	31	21	51	76
Dharmastala	31	71	36	81	41	39	40	98
Mundaje	37	49	29	56	37	44	37	64
Kadirudiavara	16	31	17	36	15	29	33	37
Indabettu	29	46	23	57	18	35	21	76
Mittabagilu	27	42	17	48	14	34	26	35
Malavantige	7	40	22	41	17	44	17	49
Charmadi	15	55	23	62	14	50	23	38
Chibidre	14	32	15	20	9	28	5	23
Thotathadi	15	29	14	46	9	20	14	20
Neria	31	36	37	44	17	38	18	41
Savanal	28	28	23	41	15	30	18	53
TOTAL	424	769	430	821	392	562	488	909

There were in the four years 1734 births as against 3061 deaths or in other words deaths exceeded births by 43%.

It was found that of the above deaths a large percentage was due to deaths from fever and fever in this area means generally Malarial fever.

9. STATISTICS OF MALARIA PATIENTS:—The figures of patients treated in the only two Local Fund Dispensaries located on the western fringe of this belt are very illustrative. It may be noted that these figures do not by any means include the innumerable cases of Malaria in the area as a whole, for most of such cases do not go to the dispensaries, but are treated locally or are not treated at all, as we found to be the case. We shall now proceed to give the figures:—

Year.	Sullia Dispensary.	Beltangady Dispensary.
1908	734	1754
1909	537	1576
1910	2760	3355
1911	1639	2766
1912	2040	2159
1913	1109	1848
1914	1445	2147
1915	1648	5195
1916	1221	2147
1917	1497	3088
1918	2068	2955
1919	2577	1967
1920	3520	2305
1921	3007	1839
1922	3257	3221
1923	3613	6643
1924	4229	10,279
1925	4393	11,003
1926	5380	10,131

10. MALARIA SURVEY:—On being informed of the seriousness of the situation, the Madras Government were pleased to pass in this connection G. O. Mis. No. 2353 dated 7—11—1928 requesting the Special Malaria Officer, inter alia, to carry out Malaria investigation in the Puttur Taluk. The said Officer travelled over many parts of the Taluk and conducted his investigation in 50 villages in November and December 1928. It may be noted, however, as he himself has remarked in his pains-taking and detailed report submitted to Government, dated the 1st February 1929, that his visit was in the afebrile season of the year, the disease being virulent in the months of April, May and June. Reference is made in this connection to the said report, but to give one an idea, a few paragraphs from the same relating to the area under consideration are given in Appendix I hereto.

11. FREE DISTRIBUTION OF QUININE:—We venture to submit that except for the distribution of free quinine which has been ordered by the Government in the past 2 years no serious attempt has been made to grapple with the problem which is undoubtedly a very serious one. Even in the matter of the free distribution of quinine, in the course of our enquiry we found that though the fever season had commenced in the months of April and May when we visited them, there was no stock of quinine in most of the villages. It may be that the stocks were lying in the Head-quarters or in some other corner, but they were not made available to the public. This palliative, viz, the free distribution of quinine, is in our opinion though valuable in itself is quite insufficient to deal with the problem as a whole. In the concluding paragraphs we shall briefly submit what in our opinion are the steps that have to be taken urgently on hand if there is to be any hope and any future for the population of these villages.

Decline of Cultivation.

12. The next question we shall deal with is as to what extent cultivation has increased or decreased in the period with which we are concerned. Here again we have no hesitation in stating, as a result of our enquiry, that cultivation has very seriously declined in this area and this is true whether judged from the standpoint of (1) the extent of the area under cultivation, (2) the yield therefrom or (3) the quality and the variety of the crops raised therein.

13. EXTENT OF CULTIVATION:—Taking the question of the extent, we desire to submit a note of serious warning as to the reliability of the figures that appear to be compiled year after year by the Karnam of the village and submitted to the Revenue Department and shown under the head of "Waste-charge." In most cases we have no hesitation in stating that the figures compiled are very much under-stated. We have verified this ourselves in a few instances. The matter, however, is so important that the settlement department which can command the necessary staff will do well to have statistics taken of all the villages of this area for their own use as well as for public enlightenment. Speaking generally we find that a very large extent of the occupied wet lands are lying fallow. We are not in a position to give the exact figures for all the villages concerned, but such as we have been able to get through responsible villagers in the case of a few villages are given below, and we have little doubt that they are nearer the truth than the figures compiled by the Department. The extent of bagayat lying fallow is not as much as in the case of the wet lands. It was curious to find, however, that there was no fallow at all in the garden extent as found in the revenue accounts. But this is not correct as we have seen some cases ourselves. In the case of dry lands, however, we have to state that approximately more than 95% of them are fallow and uncultivated. Here again the figures of the Karnam are wholly inaccurate. We do not know on what principles these figures are compiled

by the Revenue Department and we ourselves are unable to find any. A list of fallow lands in 34 villages is given below. It will be seen that even the figures in the revenue accounts give sufficient cause for apprehension.

Extent of wet lands in acres—Fasli 1340.

S. No.	Village.	For which asst. is paid.	Fallow according to Revenue a/cs.	Fallow according to Our information
1.	Markanja	447·47	102·47	—
2.	Shiradi	276·60	76·60	107·28
3.	Shirivagilu	97·56	26·56	46·84
4.	Konaje	292·97	16·47	46·75
5.	Kutrupadi	492·68	77·18	132.00
6.	Hariharapallathadka	118·69	6·69	25·48
7.	Kollamogru	320·89	8.94	59·94
8.	Balagod	195.53	12.71	20·73
9.	Subramania	186·67	5.67	47·00
10.	Noojibalthila	410·86	95·36	—
11.	Renjaladi	247·76	32.26	—
12.	Rekya	289·99	68·39	—
13.	Shibaje	269·88	59·28	—
14.	Shishila	240·81	20·00	97·28
15.	Kaukradi	819·21	69·21	—
16.	Nelyadi	682·80	62·80	—
17.	Mundaje	328·34	13·34	117·00
18.	Thotathadi	585·29	25·29	111·69
19.	Charmadi	508·83	31·83	83·00
20.	Nidle	412·50	12·50	113·06
21.	Kalanja (No. 23)	826·54	6·54	86·79
22.	Nada	678·95	32·95	93·20
23.	Laila	605·40	49·40	—
24.	Mithabagilu	1220·85	260·85	—
25.	Kanyadi	441·52	54·37	97·96
26.	Navoor	612·77	290·17	—
27.	Koyyur	881·69	121·69	—
28.	Kadirudyavara	783·42	183·42	—
29.	Malavanthige	528·57	128·57	—
30.	Indabettu	782.63	256·64	288·81
31.	Neria	544·40	115·40	—
32.	Chibidre	266·42	26·42	45·15
33.	Belal	1024·85	49·85	112·29
34.	Dharmastala	736.98	76·98	240·99

14. YIELD:—Coming to the question of the yield, we find that what a cultivator can get from an acre of wet lands in the shape of paddy which is the normal and the main crop of this area is very much less now than what it was in the past. Again a perusal of the Settlement Registers of the villages comprised in this area will show what a variety of crops such as paddy, ragi, green-gram, horse-gram, blackgram, gingelli, sugarcane, pepper, cardamom and chillies were being cultivated at that time, but we regret to find that most of them have since disappeared. Many local industries such as sugarcane mills, oil mills, handlooms, indigo vats etc. were found in the cattle census of 1904 (vide the adangals of these villages). Most of them have likewise disappeared. Taking the area as a whole and except in a few villages paddy is now the only food crop that is now raised.

15. LOSS OF CROPS BY WILD BEASTS AND BIRDS:—Proceeding to the reasons for this state of things they may be stated under 3 heads:—(1) Without entering into the question as to whether kumri cultivation is good or not and whether it should be put down altogether in the interests of Forest Conservancy as has been done, the fact remains that almost until the close of the last century, in practically all these villages kumri cultivation was being carried on on a large scale. The result was that the hilly areas surrounding the occupied lands were much freer, and the forest growth around human habitations and cultivated areas far less dense than to-day, when on account of the total stoppage of such cultivation the forests in these areas have grown hopelessly thick and dense, helped by the heavy rainfall and the natural facilities for the growth of forests in these regions As a consequence of this, coupled with the rigid Forest Laws the forests now contain huge timber and wild trees, bushy growths and impenetrable thickets. They are giving cover to and producing an ever increasing number of wild beasts such as elephants, tigers, panthers, bisons, wild pigs, wild dogs, porcupines, deer, sambhur, rabbits, rats and monkeys. The more the forests, the more also the birds. From the time the seeds are sown till the crop is harvested the crop becomes the food of these animals and the birds. It is not that in all areas we find all these wild beasts. In some areas we find some of them, whilst in others some others. When the crops are young, the trouble comes from the deer, sambhur, bisons and wild elephants the latter causing damage and devastation many times more than by the actual eating of the crops. Subsequently as the grain grows the trouble comes from the wild pigs, monkeys and birds. The havoc caused by the wild pigs particularly appears to be enormous. The destruction by the wild elephants, though not seen in some villages, is constant and dreadful in some others. The belt of one or two of the villages adjoining the foot of the Ghauts from Charmadi on the north to Thodikan on the south, is the favourite haunt and habitation of these animals. We are told by the villagers that their trouble is increasing year by year. The villagers have to sit in constant watch during the nights in or near their fields on watch sheds which are spread about everywhere and as many as 2 or 3 persons have to sleep and keep watch in each. The wild elephants come in singles or in herds. The watchmen set fire to terrify these animals, but we are told that they are getting less and less afraid of the trick. Often times the elephants give chase to persons. In the village of Shirivagilu, which we visited on the 9th of May we found that in most fields where there was formerly yenel cultivation (that is the paddy crop raised from June to September) it has now been almost given up as the ryots find it impossible to keep constant and frequent watch during the rainy season to prevent the elephants from devastating the crops. We found the condition in this village very deplorable. We saw the holding of one Kunha Gowda, a 70 years old man, paying an assessment of Rs. 127/- in this village. At one time his condition was quite sound and happy, but a considerable extent of his lands, bail and majal, are lying fallow for want of cultivation. In one place, Thirtha-Pilkaje, 3 muras seed area of majal lands have been fallow for some years past. Near his house at Pilkaje he has 6 muras of bail lands in which the yenel crop cannot be raised on account of the constant trouble of the wild elephants. We were informed that about 40 cocoanut trees of his had been up-rooted by the wild elephants and thrown down for being eaten by them. Traces of some of these could be seen on the spot. Of the very few that yet remain even the bark till a height of about 10 to 15 feet has been removed and eaten up by the wild elephants and no new cocoanut plant could be planted for the same reason. At a place called Barya in that village he has about 30 muras of bail and majal (some of which are fallow) which fetch him an income of about Rs. 75/- per annum and his 10 muras of bail and majal at another place called Yenkala are again lying fallow. To pay the last March kist he had to borrow from over the Ghauts and had also to sell some of his cattle. At the time of our visit he had not paid the April kist. He told us that the Potail and the Karnam would be coming in

a day or two to distrain his cattle. He has only about 20 muras of paddy in his house to face the monsoon and the few cattle that yet remain from which the Sircar has to be paid the remaining assessment for the year. He has not a single lamp in his house. His condition was truly heart-rending; but the course of law, we have no doubt, will take its course. This is not an isolated instance. It depicts in a large measure the general condition of the villagers of this area wherein the illiterate, backward but hard-working 'Gowda' forms the back-bone of the population. And yet, who knows of their misery? Neither the authorities nor the public elsewhere in the District or outside !

16. "BOMBOOCHI":—Added to the wild beasts and the birds and what has become almost a permanent disease or pest in these parts is what is called "Bamboochi". It does not appear to have been known or heard of when kumri cultivation was carried on in these areas. Its devastating effects have increased both in intensity and in extent year by year in the past about 30 years. We believe, though we are unable to state exactly the scientific connection between the two, that the dense growth of vegetation in the forests after the stopping of the kumri cultivation and its constant rotting have undoubtedly something to do with this pest. It consists of billions of small insects of the grass-hopper type settling upon crops and eating the grains in them, both of the paddy as well as of the dry crops. Their effect is so bad that often times wholesale fields yield absolutely nothing and even the hay of the paddy crop becomes stinking in smell and unfit to be eaten by the cattle. An effort was made to inform the Government Agricultural Department of this pest, but the only advice which was tendered by the Department was that the ryots should use nets and catch them, a solution which is, it is respectfully submitted, as absurd as it is naive. One effect of this pest which becomes very intense with regard to crops which are harvested rather late in any village is that all of them attack the particular field which is harvested late and devour the whole crop so that people who are late in sowing, whether on account of the late rains or on account of the nature of the land or of the nature of the seedling used which may require longer time, are hardly able to get anything out of the crop, and not even the trouble to harvest and remove the crops to the cultivator's house is taken as even the hay becomes useless as has already been stated. The result is that in this area superior paddy crops such as "gandasale", "jeerasale" and "kalame" which used to be raised in former years have been given up altogether as these crops take a longer period for harvesting.

17. INSUFFICIENCY OF LABOUR:—Another cause which has led to the decrease in the quality as well as the quantity of cultivation is the gradual decline of the availability of manual labour for cultivation in these areas and side by side the increase in the cost thereof. Practically in the whole of this area labour has become scarce. In former times the local holeyas were the mainstay of agricultural labour in these parts. For one thing now the cultivator is not able to pay him all his wants. The cost of his maintenance, such as it remains today in many a village seems to us to be excessive compared with the work turned out by him or by his family. It may be worthwhile briefly to note here the condition of this form of labour. A ryot has attached to his holding one or more families of holeyas. The conditions of this class of labour except for very slight variations here and there are the same everywhere in this area. It is open to every holeya and his family members to come for work to the ryot's house every day whether there is work or not provided of course his fever and his laziness permit him. Work has to be found for him all the days in a year. In the case of a man, he has to be given one meal and 3 seers of paddy in some places or a meal and 2 seers of rice in some other places. Except that a woman does not get a meal the other wages remain the same. In addition to this, salt and chillies necessary for the paddy or the rice as the case may be, has to be given as

also betel leaves, arecanut and tobacco necessary therefor, 3 or 4 times a day. The cost of the marriage of a woman or a man has to be met by the master as also certain payments have to be made when a woman is in child-birth. Man and woman have both to be given annually cloth for wear and then certain extra payments, such as rice, oil etc., during festivals, like Deepavali, New Year, Hostu (new rice) and Aati. A kalsige seed area of land has to be given for each family and its cultivation paid for by the master. In case of illness the cost of treatment has to be met. These and various other little needs of the family have to be met from time to time and when the holeya dies the master has to meet the cost of the funerals. If actually worked out, the full cost of this labour will be found to be pretty high but that has been the custom. This relationship between the holeya and his master still continues in a few places and this customary service is still going on. Great in-roads have, however, been already made into it. We found that for various reasons the custom has almost broken down. The holeya is dissatisfied with the conditions of his life and of his remuneration. Malaria has taken a serious hold of him as well as his master. Attractive terms are offered and often obtained in coffee and other plantations immediately over the ghauts, better comforts and medical treatment. On the other hand the ryot himself has been declining economically and is unable to meet all the demands of this form of customary labour, let alone the prospects of improving it. The result has been that as a class a very large percentage of these holeya and malekudi labourers, men, women and children, have left the villages for labour on the plantations. Instead we have the petty cultivators, that is the chalgeni tenants of the coastal villages of the Kasargod and Mangalore Taluks and even of the western parts of the Puttur Taluk migrating to these regions during the sowing and the harvesting seasons with a view to earn something when they are free from their own cultivation. They are more skilled than the local labourers but their wages are pretty high ranging from Annas 6 per day in some class of labour to As. 8 per day in others. The small landholder of these areas cannot always afford to hire him for a length of time and often times he cannot also be depended upon, for when the demands of his own cultivation have to be met he leaves these parts and goes to his own village. The result of our enquiry definitely points out that sufficient labour is not available in these parts and that this has been felt to be the case more and more as years have advanced. Scarcity of labour has had its effect in another way. Till some years ago transplantation used to be done in most of the villages. But now it has been entirely given up in some, whilst it has decreased very much in others. The result is a substantial reduction in the yield as transplantation yields much more than direct sowing.

Increasing Loss of Cattle.

18. BY WILD BEASTS:—Another factor which is of great importance to the agriculturist of this area may be noticed here. That is the question of cattle. Here again the condition of cattle which are indispensable for the ryots for their agriculture is becoming increasingly worse and worse. It is indispensable chiefly for 3 reasons. First is the question of ploughing the fields. For this a ryot wants ploughing bullocks or buffaloes. Secondly and to an important degree cattle is necessary for the very large quantity of leaf manure which is practically the sole form of manure used in these parts for the paddy fields as well as the area gardens. Every ryot has 15 to 30 head of cattle consisting of cows, buffaloes, oxen and young calves. They are all necessary for the preparation of this manure. Large quantities of green leaves are daily collected and put into their pens as a bedding. The urine and dung of the animals get mixed up with the leaves and about twice in a month this mixture is removed and stored up as manure. In some months of the year when green leaves cannot be had dry leaves are used. This form of manure is the only one suited to the conditions of the people and of agriculture in these parts as it is also the case elsewhere in the district. To the cattle it is harmful for by this method of

being made to stand and sleep in beds of urine and dung there is a constant degeneration and loss of vitality in the animals and they slowly sink away. The loss of cattle due to the kills by panthers, tigers and wild dogs in this region is some thing enormous. In this connection we have to state that the statistics kept by the Village Potail in respect of deaths due to wild beasts is hopelessly and absolutely incorrect. Vhere 15 or 20 head of cattle in a village are destroyed by panthers or tigers very ew enter his register. This again is a matter which can be verified in any village of his area. The pity of it is that often it is the best and strongest animals that fall prey to these beasts. Taking the district as a whole even the figures of the Village 'otails showed that in 1924, 3590 head of cattle, in 1925, 3418 and in 1926, 4250 were illed by wild beasts. Valuing them at even Rs. 25 per head, the annual loss to the)istrict would be over a lakh of Rupees, but this surely is underestimated as that loes not represent in our opinion even a fourth or a fifth of the total kills in the)istrict. We may add that areas such as the one we are dealing with contribute rgely for these kills.

19. BY CATTLE DISEASES:—The next main reason on account of which there s a greater loss still in the matter of the deaths of cattle is that due to cattle iseases such as Rinderpest. Almost every year these diseases are prevalent in these arts and often times they become serious and then villages are swept wholesale f cattle. Adequate measures have not yet been taken by the Veterinary Department o combat these diseases and to prevent the loss. The loss in value on acccunt of hese deaths to the ryots is something very large and often times it is irreparable. nvariably these losses are met by the ryot (and not always fully) by borrowing and urchasing new cattle. The great cattle-fair at Kulkunda near Subramania in this rea replenishes annually by bringing in from the Mysore Province thousands of attle which come here only to find their grave. That almost 90% of the royts of nis area are steeped in debt beyond hope of redemption is a fact which we hope will ot be denied. To this aspect of the question we shall advert at greater length in subsequent paragraph but for the present it will suffice to say that a fair proortion of the debts goes for buying cattle which are lost year after year in both the nief ways aforesaid, namely (1) loss due to destruction by wild beasts and (2) loss ue to destruction by cattle diseases.

20. By way of illustration we may quote here a few instances from the evidence taken by us of the number of cattle, their aggregate value, the loss due to wild beasts and to diseases, in the past one year, in connection with some of the witnesses we have examined.

Serial no.	Witness	Village	No. of cattle now owned.	Approximate value Rs.	No. lost in the last 1 year by wild beasts and diseases.	Approximate value thereof Rs.
1.	Somappa Rai	Markanja	28	484	7	89
2.	Gopalkrishna Noorithaya	Thodikana	11	180	4	66
3.	Sannanna Gowda	Sampaje	56	300	11	100
4.	Annappa Gowda	Aranthodu	10	148	1	25
5.	Subbappu Gowda	Ubradkamittur	27	400	10	160
6.	Ramanna Sagrithaya	Aletti	16	142	3	25
7.	Govindaya	Guttigar	30	433	9	80
	(In 1925 he lost all this cattle by disease).					
8.	Chandaya Shetti	Kodimbala	43	840	13	300
	(During our visit daily two or three were dying by Rinderpest).					
9.	Ramakrishna Bhatta	Hathiadka	13	304	1	30
10.	Jarappa Gowda	Nidle	11	154	1	10
11.	Nemiraja Shetti	Malavanthige	25	364	11	205
12.	Dejappa Shetti	Koyyur	15	300	nil	nil
	(In 1929-30 he lost all his cattle by Rinderpest).					
13.	A. D'Souza	Laila	13	210	6	25
		Total	298	4259	77	1115

This works out at an average loss per year of 6 head of cattle or Rs. 86 per ryot, a loss truly unbearable to an ordinary ryot of this area. Viewed another way it means a loss 20.5% in number and 20.7% in value every year. In other words once every five years a man has to renew his whole stock of cattle.

21. The net result of the various main points which we have dealt with in the preceding paragraphs has led to the following deplorable picture. On account of the heavy incidence of malaria and continuous loss of vitality the people in these parts have physically degenerated in the past 3 decades. Cultivation has decreased to a substantial degree both in the quality and the quantity of the yield as well as the extent under cultivation. It is becoming increasingly unprofitable and useless to cultivate a good portion of the wet lands on account of the repeated attacks and destruction by the wild beasts and the increasing inability of the ryot to watch the areas on which he has grown the crops as well as the constant destruction of the crops by the ever increasing pest "Bamboochi". Added to this we have the unbearable loss by the deaths of cattle year after year.

Devastation by Floods.

22. What may not be general to the whole of this area but what surely is in the nature of a permanent loss to the ryots in some villages where there are rivers and channels is the destruction of wet lands during the great and unprecedented floods of the years 1923 and 1924. Considerable areas of such wet lands have been rendered useless for cultivation in those villages and we do not see in the present condition of poverty and indebtedness of the villagers that there is any hope in the years to come of their having sufficient means to remove the sand and set right these wet lands and make them once again fit for cultivation. For instance, in the villages of Kadirudiavara and Indabettu, in the northern portion of this region, on either sides of the river Netravathi nearly a hundred acres of wet lands have been rendered permanently unfit for cultivation. We have personally inspected this portion. A small portion of the wet lands has been washed away and included in the river itself but a greater portion has been silted up and we see no hope of its being set right and cultivated in the near future, as it will require thousands of rupees for its repair. Again another curious result of the floods which we found in the village of Kadirudiavara aforesaid is that whilst formerly the river was annually bunded up by means of a big and costly dam and its water conveyed for miles by means of an irrigation channel at the cost of the ryots themslves for raising the 2nd crop of gingely, since the floods, however, the river has been so much silted up that sufficient quantity of water cannot be stored up as before. Whilst the gingely crop in this village had and used to be irrigated at least 4 times prior to the floods, it can now be done only twice at best. The result has been that the extent of cultivation of this crop has been considerably reduced and on account of the poorer yield the crop is becoming unprofitable. We had neither the time nor the assistance necessary to give as a complete list of all such areas, but we have no doubt that such areas are considerable and form an important subject that shall have to be dealt with in connection with the coming re-settlement.

Heavy Indebtedness.

23. We shall now deal with the general economic condition of the ryots in this area as a whole. We have stated already that almost 90% of the ryots are steeped in debts. We do not believe that the Settlement Department has the necessary means or commands the necessary confidence of the public to get and arrive at the true figures of this indebtedness. An officer deputed for this work going here and

there and getting some statistics from the Co-operative Societies or elsewhere can get but a very insufficient view of this picture. Our enquiry has been of a different type. We are glad to say that the people have placed implicit trust and confidence in us and have not hesitated to tell us their debts whenever we wanted them. Of course we have not compiled nor would it be necessary to compile a detailed list of such debts for all the villages concerned, but to have an idea for ourselves we got figures for a few villages and we shall give them here below:—

Serial No.	Village	Approximate total debt Rs.
1.	Nidle	90,000
2.	Nada	35,000
3.	Kalmanja	40,000
4.	Mundaje	68,000
5.	Shiradi	8,000
6.	Neria	42,000
7.	Chibidre	9,000
8.	Thotathadi	12,000
9.	Kutrupadi	52,000
10.	Madapadi	13,000
11.	Balagod	5,000
12.	Kollamogru	8,000
13.	Hariharapallathadka	3,000
14.	Kalmakar	6,000
15.	Sampaje	60,000
16.	Shishila	34,000
17.	Charmadi	25,000
18.	Indabettu	17,000

We are afraid that even these figures err on the side of modesty.

24. It is our humble opinion that whilst general indebtedness has been on the increase here, as elsewhere, the chief reasons that have contributed to this result are largely, though not solely, the various causes which we have described in the preceding paragraphs.

Some Inequities of the last Settlement.

25. "DRY" LANDS:—We shall now turn to what we may be permitted to call some of the inequities of the last settlement in its application to the area under consideration. We shall deal side by side with some general principles of the last settlement which show that in their application to the District as a whole this district has suffered unjustly as compared with many other districts in the presidency. First comes the question of assessment on the dry lands in this area. The dry rates vary from As. 2/ to Re. 1/, 2 anna assessment being found only in a very few villages. In the last settlement the assessment on dry lands in this District has been fixed on the basis of the ragi crop taken as the standard crop. Whatever might have been the case of the ragi crop when this crop was largely raised in the days of the kumri cultivation, now that since the last settlement this has stopped altogether except with regard to villages in the Kasaragod Taluk where this sort of cultivation is still allowed, in all other parts of the District there is absolutely no fear in stating that the dry lands do not and cannot raise any ragi crop at all or for the matter of that any crop. These dry lands have been taken on assessment and assessment is still paid on them for the only use to which they are put, namely, for getting green and dry leaves for

manure as well as for fuel. This was undoubtedly the condition of the dry lands in this District even at the time of the last settlement. One is therefore surprised to find that ragi has been taken as a standard crop. As the sole purpose of the dry lands is to serve as an adjunct to cultivation in the wet and garden lands for purposes of manure and for fuel, it is submitted that it would be entirely unjust to fix any assessment on them on the basis of any sort of a crop which is not raised. In these circumstances the principle on which the dry lands have been assessed in this District is wholly unjust and without any reason. Since the last settlement considerable areas of government waste lands have been darkhasted by the people and assessment is being paid on them. As against this it may be said that if the assessments are high, there is no reason for the people to get these waste lands on assignment. The only explanation for this state of things is that people have been resorting to darkhast with a view to prevent other persons in the village from getting them on assignment and for fear that if they do not themselves apply for and get them, others might do so and deprive them of what is indispensable to them for purposes of cultivation. It will not, we hope, be disputed that these assignments have contributed not a little to the income of the low paid Karnams in this District who have naturally taken every advantage to see that as much as possible of these darkhasts have taken place. With regard to the assessments on the dry lands in this District it is therefore urged that the rates now prevailing are excessive and unjust and particularly so in the area which is under consideration. The assessment on them should be considerably reduced to a nominal figure especially because being mostly hilly wastes they are naturally unproductive and unfit for any sort of cultivation.

26. 'GARDEN':—Dealing with the garden assessment, whatever might be the condition in Malabar or in any other district of the presidency, we regret to state that the definition of the Settlement notification in regard to a garden is wrong and unjust. The notification states that "for Settlement purposes the coccanut, arecanut, jack, tamarind, mango, palmyra and pepper vine shall be deemed to be 'Garden' products. 10 bearing cocoanut palms to the acre shall render a survey field or subdivision assessable as garden; 1 bearing jack, tamarind or mango tree shall be deemed equivalent to 2 bearing cocoanut palms; 1 bearing cocoanut palm shall be deemed equivalent to 4 pepper vines, or palmyras, and to 12 areca palms." Speaking of the District as a whole, it is only the cocoanut, arecanut and pepper that can justly be called garden products. Except in the coastal parts of the District and within a short distance of some important towns the jack fruit is not a valuable fruit at all. Speaking of the area under consideration, jack fruit is practically worthless and not a marketable commodity. In the majority of the villages one who has any idea of these parts will have no hesitation in saying that the produce of jack fruits in these parts is not taken to any market and does not fetch any value. Again the same is the case with the mango. The Settlement Authorities who were alien to the conditions in this District probably mistook the local mango for the grafted and superior variety of the east coast districts. Likewise the local mango fruits are not sent for sale to any market and do not fetch any value in the village itself. So far as the tamarind is concerned though it may be valuable, still not all the tamarind trees yield every year tamarind. There are some classes of tamarind trees which do not yield tamarind and the few that may yield do not yield every year. The palmyra tree has again been wrongly included. Such trees as are marked for purposes of excise yield government revenue but as a garden product it is absolutely unjust to include the palmyra. The fruits do not command any value except in very big towns like Mangalore or other Taluk Headquarters. It is therefore our submission that from the definition of garden trees and especially with regard to the area under report, the jack, the tamarind, the mango and the palmyra trees have to be excluded altogether.

One word more as regards the proportion inter se which the notification lays down between one kind or tree and another. Any day in this district a cocoanut tree is considered more valuable than either the jack or the mango or for the matter of that even a tamarind tree and yet we have the following proportion given in the notification, namely one bearing jack, tamarind or mango tree shall be deemed equivalent to 2 bearing cocoanut palms. The proportion is unjust and ought to be the reverse. Relying on the presence of the jack trees and the mango trees which are very common in the area under consideration, at the time of the settlement a large percentage of the dry lands which are otherwise hilly wastes have been classed as gardens and assessed at a rate of Rs. 2/- per acre and more. We submit that the imposition of such an assessment is altogether unjust and if the definition of 'garden' has justly to be rectified, we urge that a reclassification has to be made of all such 'garden' lands.

27. ARECA CULTIVATION:—A considerable extent of the garden areas in these parts consists of areca gardens, but the cultivation of areca is not found all over. It is found in abundance in some villages where live some communities who are experts in this form of cultivation as for instance the Chitpavan Brahmin Community residing in the villages of Mundaje, Hatyadka and Kutrupadi. To a considerable extent it is found also in some other villages where other communities also have taken to this form of cultivation. It is no doubt true that the value of the gross yield per acre of an areca garden is considerably more than that of an acre of wet land in which a normal paddy crop is grown, but it must be remembered that many of these gardens involve a very heavy outlay of expenditure in excavating hillsides and levelling them and bringing them into this form of cultivation. Then again after the ground is thus prepared heavy expenses have to be met for the purpose of irrigation. There are no Government irrigation works in this district and every year for this form of cultivation very costly bunds or dams have to be put up in the rivers. These bunds are washed away during the rainy season and new ones have to be put up every year. Then to lead the water collected at these bunds channels have to be made and kept in repair by the ryots. To give one an approximate idea as to the expenditure involved in this matter one may quote the instance of the village of Mundaje. There are 4 important dams in this village, three over the river Mundaje and another over the river Netravati, called Mundaje-katta, Majalu-katta, Kadambali-katta and Kayarthodi-katta respectively. On a modest scale the cost incurred annually on each is about Rs. 250, Rs. 300, Rs. 100 and Rs. 160 inclusive of the main channels leading from each. In the case of the first of them, the main channel leading the water to the gardens had recently to be built up and cemented at a cost of over Rs. 1000 and in the case of the third, of about Rs. 500. The water of these four dams irrigates 68, 43, 53 and 16 acres of areca gardens respectively. The total annual cost, excluding permanent repairs, works out at what one might call a 'water rate' of Rs. 4 and odd per acre. The next point that will have to be remembered in connection with the areca cultivation is the long period when a garden freshly prepared and planted begins to yield. This takes on an average about 10 to 15 years. Till then there is no return for the heavy outlay. In the case of an old areca garden a large number of plants have to be planted every year for making up the number of trees which are annually lost by bad seasons, by storms and by old age. The work of irrigating has to be done all through from the close of the south-west monsoon till the monsoon again breaks out. If for a considerable number of days there is no irrigation, or the monsoon fails in any year, the areca gardens are laid waste and for years continuously the yield will suffer. Added to this is the heavy cost of skilled labour necessary for digging up the ground annually or once in 2 years, manuring, the constant work of irrigation, removing weeds, collecting and preparing

the produce for sale etc. The areca garden too is not immune from the attack of the wild beasts, as for instance the elephants, wild pigs, porcupines and monkeys. In the wake of this we have numerous pests for the areca crop. A prominent pest which has made its appearance recently in some of these villages is locally called "Kole-roga". These pests have been brought to the notice of the Agricultural Department but remedies have yet to be found. When all these considerations and difficulties are borne in mind, it will be found that areca cultivation is a highly skilled and risky form of cultivation and does not bring much profit. As has been already said above it is becoming increasingly difficult to find the necessary labour for these gardens and the cost of such labour has also very considerably increased.

28. "ARECA BOOM":—In this connection we may refer to the areca 'boom' which existed from about 1922 to 1929 like what may be called the cotton boom in some other districts. It is no doubt true that high prices ranging from about Rs. 120/, to Rs. 200/, per candy were obtained in some of these years but like all 'booms' it has passed away. In the last 2 or 3 years prices have considerably fallen and in the current year very low rates have prevailed. Some ryots have sold areca this year even at Rs. 40/, or Rs. 50/, per candy, though at times prices rose. We may take the average rate for this year at Rs. 60/, or Rs. 70/, per candy. The prices last year were not much higher. If one takes the trouble to calculate the cost of the cultivation, these prices are less than the actual cost and no wonder almost cent per cent of the areca growers have fallen into heavy debts. Another aspect of this boom which we may notice in this connection is that when high prices ranged, a considerable number of ryots in the hope of realising large profits changed from wet cultivation and converted some of their paddy lands to areca gardens at the cost of very heavy outlay obtained by incurring debts. Such gardens are now a failure and the plight of such ryots, though their number may not be very large, will be hard in the years to come.

29. ASSESSMENT ON ARECA GARDENS:—With regard to the Settlement assessment on these areca gardens, it is curious to find that the gardens in the area under report are mostly assessed at the rate of Rs. 8 per acre which is the rate in the other parts of the district. It cannot be denied that the actual yield, the quality of the arecanut, the prices fetched, the conditions of labour, the cost of conveyance etc. are far more favourable in the coastal areca gardens as compared with the areca gardens in these parts which are the worst, if we take the district as a whole, and yet the rates of assessment are the same all over. It is therefore urged that in justice to the conditions prevailing in this area some reduction ought be made in the assessment of the areca gardens.

30. 'WET' LANDS:—Coming now to the wet lands, here again one finds that the rates of assessment prevailing in this district are comparatively high and excessive as compared with the wet lands of the eastern districts. If we take the district as a whole, the area under report is really highly assessed as compared with the villages to its west. It has already been noticed that a large proportion of the wet lands in this area are being thrown out of cultivation. It is becoming very difficult to get tenants to cultivate and pay rent as the tenant is seldom able to get sufficient yield from the land. It has become almost a practice now in these parts for tenants to be specially imported from the western villages who, however, cultivate for a year or two and then go away to some other village after being in arrears for a good portion of rent. If one takes the actual figures of the rents mentioned in the leases in many of these villages, one will find that in proportion to the coastal villages the rents are comparatively low and the assessment on the wet lands are considerably higher than in the

coastal villages. One must deal with these rental figures with great caution. In most cases we have no hesitation in stating that the rents stipulated in the leases are never fully collected from the tenants. A good portion of them is always in arrears until the total for some years swells so heavily that the only alternative for the tenant is to quit the holding and seek some other village. The rents appearing in the leases are often excessive because, if they are all to be paid, they will leave little or nothing to the actual cultivator. The object of showing high rents in the leases seems to be to secure a higher value at the time of the sale of the property which in the desperate condition of the generality of these people is inevitable sooner or later. A hopeful feature in this state of things is that in a great many of the villages which we visited we found that the proportion of tenants was small compared with the western parts of the district. In most villages the petty ryot was himself the cultivator. This may be said to be particularly true in the case of the eastern half of the area under report, where conditions of agriculture and of living have become so hard that it has become impossible for any tenant to cultivate and pay any decent rent, as it is equally impossible for the petty landholder to let out his lands to others and live on the precarious rents. Speaking of these parts as a whole, we found that practically all the third class wet lands were lying fallow, a great proportion of the second class wet lands and in some cases even first class wet lands. One other feature which we may notice in connection with the incidence and the rates of assessment for the wet lands in these parts is that in many a village, though we found rates of assessment varying from say Rs. 5 to As 12, still a high proportion of the total wet lands had been classed and assessed at the higher rates and not the lower rates, so that there is not much satisfaction which we may derive from being told that in many of these villages the assessment rates are as low as As. 12, Re. 1, Rs. 1—8, Rs. 2, or Rs. 2—8. Considering the fact that in a man's holding a good proportion of his wet lands and his dry lands are fallow and do not give him any produce or profit, we submit that the total assessment which these ryots have to pay is high and oppressive. One important fact which we shall have to bear in mind is that in these villages the water supply for irrigation is bad and meagre, and to get even this little supply the ryot has to spend considerable sums in the shape of bunds and channels, particularly for the second crop. Unlike as in the coastal villages a third crop is unknown in these parts and a few villages yield but one crop even for the so-called first class lands.

31. COST OF CULTIVATION:—Without going far into the question of the cost of cultivation we shall content ourselves by stating that the cost of cultivation assessed and taken into consideration for settlement purposes is extremely low and insufficient as compared with what it should have been even at that time. Since the Settlement that cost has risen very much, both in the shape of costlier labour as well as in the form of increased prices for materials and implements. We do not think it will serve any useful purpose if we were to give a detailed list of such cost because it varies from individuals to individuals and from place to place, and what is more, if a bill were to be properly made, it will be found that the total cost of cultivation will exceed the value of the produce. We have attempted to compile such figures and verify this result. Speaking generally, agriculture in this area has ceased to be remunerative and is actually a losing concern. The only reason why the majority of the ryots still cling on to their holdings seems to us to be that while life lasts they have to live, and they have no hope of a different occupation or of another place to which they could go.

32. 'OUTTURN PER ACRE':—Another point in connection with the last Settlement which may be noticed is that of the high outturns per acre adopted by Government as well as the rather high prices adopted for the purposes of commutation. It is unfortunate for this area that the process of 'averaging' which has been adopted

in this connection has caused considerable injustice. In the case of the outturn, for instance, what has been done is the crop outturns for the best and the worst lands have been added up and the average fixed as the standard. By this method whilst the better sort of lands and better areas in the district, where the outturns are higher and the facilities for agriculture are greater, have everything to gain, areas like the one with which we are dealing, which are more unfortunately placed, have everything to lose, as whatever might be the theoretical capacity of a field to produce, what actually a ryot is able to get out of the crop is comparatively little. So that by this process of 'averages' the area under report has suffered very considerably. This applies with equal force to the commutation rate adopted at the last settlement. Prices at the different taluk headquarters appear to have been taken and averaged, with the result that this area in which, without doubt, the prices are one of the lowest in the whole district, has suffered by this process. Compared with the rates actually obtaining in these villages the rates obtaining at the taluk headquarters, namely, Puttur, will be found to be always higher. The Committee does not propose to go into other general questions affecting the last Settlement as they feel that they could be dealt with more appropriately when the question of the resettlement of the district as a whole will come up for considration.

Some points in connection with the Resettlement.

33. IMPROVEMENTS:—A point which may be noticed is the question of the enhancement of assessment due to improvements made by the ryot. We understand that it is a principle of resettlement that "Government has undertaken to refrain from enhancing the assessment on account of any additional value which may have been imparted to the land by the improvements effected by the ryots even though they have been carried out by means of money borrowed from Government". In the area under consideration, as elsewhere in the district, alterations made by the ryots consist of 3 classes:—

(i). From 'dry' to 'wet';

(ii). ,, ,, to 'garden';

(iii). ,, 'wet' to ,,

Taking the first two classes we have already stated that 'dry' land in this district and particularly in this area is sheer hilly waste-land of uneven level often with tree or shrub growth. To convert it into a wet land or a garden means heavy outlay in the shape of excavation, levelling, bunding etc., and in the case of a garden further outlay in planting. Such gardens are areca gardens as in most parts of this area the cocoanut tree does not thrive. Taking the third class, it will be an areca garden and we have already noticed what a large outlay it means. In these circumstances we are surprised to learn that attempts are being made by the settlement department to take stock of these conversions. If it is only a matter of obtaining statistics or of making the registers up-to-date the people can have no grievance. But if it is with a view to enhance the existing rates of assessments on them we regret we have to state that it will not only be highly inequitable and unjust, but also a breach of faith on the part of Government. We do not see why in such a case the converse rule should not apply. That is, all wet and garden lands which for reasons beyond a man's control have ceased to be under cultivation should be reclassified as 'dry' and the assessment on them considerably reduced. We should like to know if Government would agree to this. This takes us to the question of the Remission and Suspension of assessment.

34. REMISSION AND SUSPENSION OF ASSESSMENT:—We are not fully aware of the rules governing these but we feel that some substantial relief has to be given to the ryots in this matter. When several acres of wet lands of a ryot are lying fallow whether for inability to cultivate for one or other of the reasons we have already noticed or whether they are fallow on account of the damage by the floods we find that he has still to pay the entire assessment on them. He ought not to be compelled to surrender such areas for all time. Rules, whether in their framing or in their working out, ought to be liberal to give him substantial remission where such lands lie fallow for reasons beyond his control. Similarly in the case of a bad harvest the rules ought to provide for the suspension or postponement of kists. The last 2 years have been extremely bad in the case of most of the ryots in this area on account of the two continuous bad seasons apart from general causes already detailed and yet nowhere could we find any relief given to the ryots whether by the remission or postponement of kists. This year we have no doubt that more than 75% of the ryots in this area have had to sell cattle or pawn jewels or otherwise incur debts in order to pay the kists. Their requests for remission or postponement have been in vain. Several cases of distraints have taken place to our knowledge, particularly in the Beltangady division of this area. It is for the Authorities to see that such injustice does not take place.

35. COMMUNICATIONS:—We may now notice the question of the improvement or otherwise of the communications in this area. Except for a few Panchayat roads in two or three places which have been opened in the past 2 or 3 years, the future of which is yet uncertain, no definite improvement has taken place in the matter of the roads in this area. On the other hand they have deteriorated. A great many of the roads are useless and cannot be used during the monsoon season on account of the innumerable rivers and channels which are without bridges and even culverts. For instance even such an important road as the Jalsoor-Subramania Road becomes unfit for use during the rains, and even in the month of April when we passed through it we found it in a hopeless condition. Though these parts pay as much proportion of the cess as the western parts of the district one regrets to find that all the valuable money or at any rate a good portion of it, is spent only in those parts, and very little attempt has been made or expenditure incurred to improve the lot of the villagers in this area. The condition of the roads in this area is deplorable in the extreme and some can hardly be recognised as such in thir present condition. As a reference to the administration reports of the Puttur Taluk Board will fully bear out our statement we shall not labour this point further. Speaking generally, this area as a whole is completely cut off from the rest of the district and especially so during the monsoon months, and the people are put to very great difficulty.

36. RISE IN PRICES:—The only redeeming feature in this picture is the rise in prices of the main crops of this area viz., rice and arecanut. In the period since the settlement prices have generally risen in this area as well as in other parts of the district though not to the same extent. The committee have, however, been unable to find out exactly to what extent this rise has taken place. The prices recorded at Puttur or at Mangalore are no guide to the actual rates which an ordinary ryot is able to get in his own village which is situated 15, 20 or even 30 miles from the nearest town. It will be noticed that the majority of ryots living in these areas are petty land-holders. In the conditions in which they are circumstanced it is usual for them to sell rice during the months of March, April and May for the payment of kists when, as is well known, the rates that prevail are the lowest. Unfortunately, the decline in regard to such prices has already commenced and the rates particularly

this year are the lowest to be found. It is not known as to how long the present prices would last. Other things which have to be considered in this connection are that the cost of living of the people has risen as also the cost of materials and improvements, the cost of cultivation, and the cost of labour as has been noticed already. If all these factors are considered as a whole, it will not be wise or just to rely much on the increased prices that have prevailed for some years.

37. KISTBANDI:—The conditions of this area which have already been described will show that they are not the same as in the western parts of the district. In our enquiry we were particular to ask the witnesses who appeared before us about the change of kist-bandi in the future. Suggi crop which is usually harvested in other parts of the district by the end of February, is not harvested in this area till even April, so that when half the assessment has to be paid in the March kist the suggi crop is not available for sale. Some witnesses have suggested to us that the assessment should be payable in 4 or 5 instalments and not 3 as now, the last instalment being made payable in June. Some others have suggested that the first kist should be in February, yet others have stated that instead of the March kist being half of the total assessment, the middle kist in April should be made half. Considering all things we hold that the peculiar circumstances of this area necessitate that the assessment should be made payable in 4 kists, the first kist being made payable in February, the others following it in March, April and May.

Conclusion.

38. We shall now proceed to submit what, in our humble opinion, should be done in connection with the coming re-settlement and also in regard to the future well-being of the people of this area by Government and the concerned local bodies. We do not intend to say that all the burden should be borne by others and none by the people themselves. They too must organise themselves to alleviate their present wretched condition. But poor, illiterate and helpless that they are, the duty lies heavier with others who are more enlightened and fortunate than they, and particularly with the Government whose policy and practices in the past have contributed not a little to their present plight.

39. So far as re-settlement is concerned, we have indicated already what our main intentions are. We believe we have made out a clear case for a substantial reduction of assessments all round, and also a re-classification of the gardens in this area in the light of the definition of what a garden should be according to our suggestion, and for a suspension or reduction of assessment in the case of fallow lands. We believe that if the present rates of assessment and condition of things a to continue much longer there is little hope for the people of this area.

40. As regards other steps to be taken to arrest the decline of the peo all round we beg to suggest the following:—

(a) The forest policy of the Government in regard to this area requires thorough overhaul. It is impossible for the ryots to thrive in this area if the prese rigid laws of the Forest Department are to prevail over all considerations of humani and agriculture as they now do. We do not mean to say that the reserve forests are be abolished altogether though, if the real interest of the thousands of people inhabiti these areas should be the sole concern, that would be most desirable. We are aware th the requirements of a state and of the general needs of a country require that the should be a certain proportion of forests and some laws to protect them, but surely th should not mean that the humanity living in these areas, not for the first time b from times immemorial, should be wiped out altogether by a slow but sure proce of degeneration and ruin. The interests of the reserve forests in these areas will r

substantially suffer if Government are to carry out in a liberal measure the suggestions which we venture to suggest in the following lines. The so-called concessions of the Forest Department now said to be given are not working in actual practice. We make bold to say that in many a village they are altogether unknown and what benefits the villagers get from the reserve forests is by means of a well-established system of bribery to the Forest Guard. We have not the space to go into detail over this question in this place, but if the authorities should be pleased to institute an enquiry into this question as a whole, we are prepared to give such assistance as lies in our power to bear out what we have stated.

(i) Wherever possible the limits of the reserves should be put off atleast half-a-mile from cultivated holdings and permission given to the ryots to cut and burn the tree and shrub growth atleast within a distance of 100 yards from the limits of their holdings. The present concession of clearing the undergrowth of unclassified species not above 6 feet in height to a distance of half a mile from the private holdings is absolutely impracticable and worthless for the purpose for which it appears to be intended and has never been taken advantage of anywhere. The mere cutting of the undergrowth will make matters worse as the sprouts that come up soon after from the cuttings will render the place more bushy than ever. The only remedy is to keep a clear belt of atleast 100 yards so that a good portion of the damage caused by many of the wild beasts may be reduced. It is not that mere 100 yards will prevent all the damage. We do not at present suggest more because we fear that the average ryot will find it difficult with the little labour and resources he can command, to keep a wider area completely free and clear. There is no use of our asking for half a mile width as an average ryot has not the means to keep such an area free. We have consulted many of the ryots on this point and they are all anxious for this privilege as without it it is impossible for them to go on with cultivation any longer. It is only by burning that the area could be properly cleared. To make up for the considerable expense which a ryot has to incur for the cutting and burning of this strip we suggest that he may be allowed as a special case to raise 'hakkal' cultivation on it free of assessment. This cultivation cannot be done for several years continuously but only for 1, 2 or 3 years in the first instance and repeated again after some years. The royts are willing to undertake to see that the fires do not spread to the Reserve Forests and cause damage. The Forest Department will lose nothing by allowing this. If after experimenting for some years even this does not help matters, more drastic steps shall have to be taken which may involve even the disafforestation of some reserves. No price, we submit, is too dear to save a whole population from misery and ruin.

(ii) The next privilege which should be given to the ryots of this area is freely to shoot and organise hunting parties in the Reserve Forests. In the latter case they may do so after informing the village Potail beforehand. The present concessions in this regard are as halting as they are impracticable. There should be no restriction with regard to the animals to be hunted nor to the time of hunting except that it will not be necessary nor possible to hunt in the months of June to August on account of the monsoon. Unless such liberal concessions are given there is no possibility of any attempt being made to minimise the destruction caused by the wild beasts in the area. One cannot really understand as to why the Government and the Forest Department should be more solicitous about the life of these wild beasts than the well-being of the ryots who are human beings after all, and who have a claim on the Government which collects every year a considerable sum in the shape of assessment. Licenses for guns should be freely given in this area and the process of obtaining it should be made simple and cheap. The present method of depending upon the police department for recommendation means corruption which is harassing to the ryots.

(iii) In most of the Reserve Forests green leaves are not allowed to be taken even to-day by the forest guards. The result is, as we have already said, a system of petty corruption and bribery by which the ryots are able to get only a portion of their wants. At the same time it is not fair either to the Government or the ryots themselves that this state of things should go on. We therefore urge that this matter should be carefully looked into and proper facilities given for the supply of green leaves for manure. Some attempt has to be made to reduce the classified species to a reasonable number or abolish the restriction altogther. At present the list of classifed consists of about 35. It may be that all of them do not exist in every Reserve but it is futile to give an impossible list which no average cooly can understand and insist upon its observance. Here again we have to state that the concession is one thing on paper and quite another in practice. It will be the path of wisdom to modify the rule so that the reasonable demands of cultivation may be properly and adequately met.

(b) We have already stated enough to show the serious state in which the people of this area are placed in regard to the general conditions of public health and vitality. We suggest that the Government whether by itself or through the concerned local body should take up in right earnest the question of opening and maintaining a large number of dispensaries in this belt to give every facility for medical treatment. We welcome the system of free distribution of quinine since about 2 years, but here again we have stated how defectively the system is working. It is up to the Government and to the local bodies concerned to see that real advantage is taken by the people of this relief though, by no means, the problem will be solved by this alone.

(c) With a view to afford financial relief to the heavily indebted and poverty-stricken ryots of this area, the majority of whom are petty landholders, we suggest that long-term loans should be given to the people through the agency of Land-Mortgage Banks or by means of other suitable agencies. We have enquired to some extent about the working of the Co-operative Societies in these areas. While a few have been working well, we regret to have to state that a great many have worked badly and have launched many a thriftless cultivator into debt into which he would never have fallen but for the Societies.

(d) Urgent steps have to be taken to improve the communications in these areas and to see that a greater share of the assessment and cesses paid by the ryots of this area really go for their benefit and not mostly to improve the roads or meet the needs of the western parts of the district.

(e) Lastly better facilities for education should be provided. Here again this area has been treated in a most step-motherly fashion by the local bodies concerned though some attempts are being made to improve its lot. Unless special grants are provided by Government for areas such as these there is no hope of the local body, namely the Taluk Board concerned, effecting much improvement with its straightened finance.

41. Before we close this report, we beg to tender our heart-felt thanks to the people of the area for their whole-hearted co-operation with us in this enquiry. Excepting for a sum of about Rs. 125 to meet the cost of typing and printing which has been met from the funds of the Puttur Taluk Landholders' Association all other costs including the expenses of our tour have been met by the members from their own funds.

42. In concluding this report we beg humbly to sound a note of warning to all concerned that unless immediate attempts are made to improve the lot of the

vast population of this area, the next 50 years will see their total annihilation. Lest it should be said that we have unduly coloured the picture, we invite anyone who is willing to take the trouble, to go through the area and study conditions for himself, as we have ourselves humbly attempted to do, and in such a task we shall be ever happy and ready to give such assistance as may be required of us.

M. Shiva Rau.
D. Manjaya Hegde.
G. Anantha Bhat.
B. T. Ariga Jaini.
K. Manjappa Pandi.
M. Aithappa Rai.
K. R. Karant.
Shesha Bhat Bhide.
B. Mangesha Rao.

Belthangady,
17th May, 1931.

APPENDIX I.

Extracts from the Special Malaria Officer's Report.

'PARA 22: Yet another evidence of malaria is to be gathered from vital statistics. This will be referred to later on under the description of individual circles or groups of villages as these figures are available only in some instances. Even so far as they are available, it is found that death rates have always been in excess of birth rates, a condition of affairs which requires very serious consideration.

'PARA 23: Although the description of one village serves for the general features of all the others visited by us, there is such an endless variety even in the picturesque likeness that deserves mention in its bearing on the problem of MALARIAL ENDEMICITY.

'PARA 24: SUBRAMANIA: The first group of villages examined is situated in and around Subramania at the South—eastern corner of the taluk. It is conspicuous for its gorgeous peak overlooking the Bisly Ghat and the well-known temple of Subramanya.....Reserve forests are more or less in contiguity with a row of houses which are built on the road which is the only thoroughfare leading to the temple.

NALKURU, GUTHIGAR are two villages lying on the road leading towards the west from Subramania. They are purely agricultural villages. It was repesented that the growth of forests on three sides has led to the increased incidence of malaria. The hill streams are numerous and run on all sides of the villages.

HARIHARA—PALLATHADKA is near the foot of the Ghats on the South-east. The village side extends well into the reserve forest areas.....77 out of 95 children or 81% examined in this group of villages showed enlarged spleen.....

'PARA 25: KADABA, KODIMBALA ETC. The villages under this group are situated about 14 miles slightly abcut the North-west of Subramania. Except in the case of Nuji-Balthila and Renjaladi, the country side is much more open. No hill streams are found running in the vicinity.....Number with enlarged spleen 51%. It is noteworthy that the children amongst the Adi Dravida converts showed a smaller spleen rate than the caste boys and girls in the Board schools. This was apparently due to the fact that Revd. Lobo, the priest, looks after them and administers quinine from his own resources

'PARA 28: GOLITHATTU: This is situated about 10 miles from Uppinangady on the main road to Shiradi.....There is a stream of moderate size and rather sluggish current flowing over a bed of gravel through dense vegetation on either side close to the P. W. D. Rest-house. A search was made for ANOPHELES LARVAE in this stream as well as in the numerous overflow channels from the rice fields; but the only species bred out from here were A. BARBIROSTRIS and A. HYRCANUS VARNIGERRIMUS. Not more than half a mile from the periphery of the village one meets with thick forest areas which are also to be found on either side of the main road. The population of the village as per 1921 census is 693 and the total number of deaths in 1928 were as many as 44 cut of which 22 were from fevers, while the total number of births reported for the year was only 18

'PARA 29: The next group of villages visited were HATHIADKA, SISILA and SHIBAJE.....There were in this group 41 cases of enlarged spleen out of a total of 50 children examined and 6 infected blood smears cut of 40, the spleen rate and the parasite index working out to be 87% and 15% respectively.

'PARA 30: The BANGADI group of villages is situated in a village close to the hills bordering Mysore and consequently abounds in a number of small channels all round..... The spleen rate is fairly high in this area. Out of 96 children in INDABETTU, BANGADI and KADIRUDYAVARA, 73 showed enlarged spleen (76%) and the parasite index was 16% (12 out of 76).

'PARA 31: MALAVANTHIGE is at the foot of the hills and has a number of arecanut gardens interspersed with cocoanut groves.....The country around this group of villages is a little more open and commands better facilities for natural drainage than the BANGADI group. This possibly explains the slightly lower spleen rate which was only 64% (28 out of 44).

'PARA 32: NERIYA is in the centre of a thick forest area interspersed with small valleys where rice is grown.....The record of births and deaths in Neriya speak for themselves as to the intensity of the disease in this area.

YEAR.	BIRTHS.	DEATHS.	DEATHS DUE TO FEVER.
1927	28	51	48
1928	22	53	46

The spleen rate was very high. As many as 72 children out of 80 or 90% showed enlarged spleen and 12 out of 80 or 15% blood smears were found infected.

'PARA 33: CHARMADI, KOKKINJI AND CHIBIDRE villages are all situated on the main road from Beltangadi. Charmadi is only 7 miles from the foot of the Ghat. There are no features of distinctive interest in this group except the spleen rate is among the highest being 86% (52 out of 60) although the parasite index is comparatively low, 8% (4 out of 52)

'PARA 34: MUNDAJE is about 5 miles from Charmadi and the village is situated on the slope of two ridges in the hollow between which the Mundaje HOLE (river) winds its way on a bed of rock. There are about 24 streams running down the ridge on either side and draining into the central stream. These streams run through thick vegetation and were found to breed A. LISTONI, A. KARWARI in no inconsiderable numbers. The main stream has as many as 8 bunds in its course so as to divert the water on the arecanut gardens.....The physical features of this area, such as, its dense forests, numerous hill streams and thick vegetation are most favourable for a high Malarial ENDEMICITY. But some of the people are alive to their own peculiar conditions and without entirely giving way to a feeling of general helplessness, are taking to quinine as a means of remedy. This has had some definite influence on the spleen rate in the children. Mr. Bhide, an influential landlord in the village and a Taluk Board Member, has been stocking quinine with him every year for the use of his tenants and relations. The Brahmin School children who were resorting to the use of quinine in case of need had a much lower spleen rate than the children of other castes.....96 children were examined in this area out of whom 68 had enlarged spleen (71%) and the parasite index was 10% (6 out of 60).

'PARA 35: DHARMASTALA is an important place of pilgrimage attracting about 12,000 pilgrims during the annual festival in the month of December. The country around is thrown into a series of ridges thick with forests and rice fields into the narrow valleys between the ridges. In one such valley the temple of Dharmastala is built and there is a well formed row of houses to the east of the temple. Here are extensive lands mostly belonging to the temple which are left fallow for want of cultivators who can live on the land and prevent depredations from wild animals.....It is obvious from the above table that the fever season commences some time in February and lasts till August. * * * The total number of deaths in 1926 was 81 out of which 68 were due to fevers; in 1927, 32 deaths out of a total of 50 were due to fevers; whereas in 1928 as many as 75 out of 92 deaths were attributed to fevers. The births recorded for this period were 36, 46 and 38 respectively. Out of 106 children examined in this group of villages, 96 had enlarged spleen (91%) and slides 12 out of 90 were found infected (parasite index 13%).

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'PARA 37:—LAILA, NADA, KANYADI, AND NAVUR serve to exemplify the peculiar conditions prevailing in parts which are strictly rural in contrast to those obtaining in areas which are more or less urbanised. LAILA in particular is but 2 miles distant from the town of Beltangadi and shows a high spleen rate; whereas in the rural parts the spleen rate and the parasite index were 72% and 16% respectively. The corresponding figures for the adjoining town of Belthangadi were 16% and 1%. Possibly the greater extent of open country around Belthangadi accounts for the difference.

* * * * * * * * *

'PARA 43: The last group of villages visited consists of ARANTHODE, THODIKANA AND SAMPAJE..... Dense forests and rising hills come into view as one proceeds from Sullia to Sampaje which is on the border line between Puttur and Coorg. Aranthode is on the main road midway between Sullia and Sampaje while Todikana is about 5 miles to the west of Aranthode and could only be reached by a foot path through thick forest. Rice is largely cultivated in the valleys between the hills and arecanut gardens are also in abundance. The groups are however subject to a great deal of denudation by wild animals that haunt the neighbouring Ghats. * * * * This group of villages is fairly highly malarious the spleen rate being 64% (167 out of 262) and the parasite index 11% (9 out of 84).

'PARA 44: DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATION. In the first place malaria is claimed to be comparatively of recent prevalence and coeval with the overgrowth of forests too close to human habitations. Indeed wherever one went one heard from all quarters, educated or otherwise, that malaria was due to the foul air that emanated from the decaying shrubs and leaves in the dense forests during the dry weather. The more enlightened among the public who lay faith in the connection of mosquitoes with malaria contend that the foul air so depresses the vitality that the people fall an easy and ready prey to the disease. Such prejudices and beliefs exist everywhere with respect to every other desease; and although they may not merit serious consideration by themselves, the facts on which they are based, namely, that the desease is of recent prevalence, as also the extension of reserve forests deserve attention.

PARA 47: These explanations notwithstanding, the growth of forests can by no means be considered to play an unimportant role in the increase in the intensity of the desease They, more especially the jungle and low shrub in the proximity of human dwellings, afford nice shade and shelter for mosquitoes which breed in small collections of water in the adjoining streams and seepage channels. In any case the extension of forests right into the village sites is no doubt to be regarded as an enemy to be got rid of and it follows obviously that claim should be encouraged and stimulated in every possible way, in so far at least as the said rank jungle and bush do not encroach right on to the dwelling areas. They are certainly responsible for the denudation of crops and deprivation of cattle by wild animals besides being a not insignificant factor in the spread of malaria.

'PARA 48: PUTTUR Taluk can be divided into two well-marked areas as already stated, by a line drawn from north to south and passing through Puttur The areas lying to the east of this line are malarious, its extent and severity varying in direct relation to the proximity of villages to the Ghats in the first place, the hill streams and seepage channels in the next place and to the density of forests and forest growths in the third; whereas parts lying to the west of this line are comparatively healthy. The most plausible explanation for this is to be found in the comparative dryness due to the small number of water courses and better drainage and again in the absence of forest or other jungle growths. The amount of malaria is thus determined to be in inverse proportion to the extent of open country present around any area.

'PARA 56: SUMMARY: The salient features in this report and the opinions expressed therein are based upon an enquiry carried out in 50 villages and the inspection of water places in almost all of them for the presence of ANOPHELE LARVE and on the examination of 2748 children for evidences of malaria in them.

(1) Puttur Taluk can be divided into two areas one lying to the East of the line passing through Puttur from North to South and the other to the West of this line. The former area is highly malarious while the latter area is comparatively healthy.

(2) The larger Towns in the taluk which have a greater amount of open country around them and are removed further away from the reserved forests are also healthy, as for instance, Vittal, Uppinangady, Ujre and Beltangady

(3) The submontaine regions and the places with dense reserved forests extending right into human habitations are the most highly endemic areas with a spleen rate of nearly 80% as in Darmasthala, Nidle, Neriya, Subramanya and Sampaje in the order of severity of the disease.

(4) The present season was afebrile as evidenced by the compartively low parasite index and therefore a second and more intensive investigation in a few selected places is necessary.

(5) The predominant type of infection is the quartan variety of malarial parasite, which has so far been discribed (sic) in this Presidency only in Ennore and Cuddapah.

(6) The peculier physical features of the country make it very difficult to devise and adopt permanent antimalarial measures.

(7) Greater reliance has therefore to be placed upon the free use of quinine, clearing of low jungle and of all marginal vegetation in the garden channels and oiling of all stagnant collections of water such as rock pools.

(8) Methods of personal prophylaxis have to be popularised.

(9) For all the above purposes, a malaria trained Second Class Health Officer may be appointed as assistant to the District Health Officer, South Kanara. He can also attend to the malarial problems of other Taluks of the District, but he should not be saddled with the general duties of a Health Officer.

(10) It is also necessary that the Government should arrarge for and encourage and stimulate the clearance of forest areas, at least for a distance of two furlongs from human habitations.

(11) A large number of rural or other dispensaries especially in the interior and in the less easily accessible areas such as Mundaje, Neriya and Subramanya should be opened.

(12) The District Health Officer should arrange for some form of intelligence bureau for getting timely information of outbreaks of fever in the more important centres of population so as to direct the energies of his assistant in useful directions.

Dev Dept

Report of the
~~Secretary to President~~ - Puttur Taluk
Rural villages Committee - para.
40(c) - working of cooperative
societies

Ernst No 2221 III/25 19.8.25

Referred to the Rev. Cs
for remarks.

17/8

an extract
of para 40(c) of report

Dev Dept No 23+25 dated 16.8.25

P.D. 23/8

28 AUG

32

Dev. 2442-III
28-8-31

Revenue Department.

Endorsement No.2623 E/31-1, dated 25th August 1931.

Settlement - Resettlement South Kanara - Report of a non-official Committee on the conditions of life and Agriculture ~~in~~ in 66 village of Puttur taluk - Letter from M.R.Ry. K.R. Karant, dated the 27th July 1931.

Forwarded to the Board of Revenue for consideration of those portions of the report which relate to the resettlement of South Kanara district.

H.R.Pate

Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue, Land Revenue and Settlement
(with report in original).

Copy to the Development Department.

F o r w a r d e d.

(By Order)

4/8/31

Superintendent.

N.M.

Copy of letter dated 27th July 1931 from K.R.Karant, President, Puttur Taluk Forest Villages Committee, and Secretary, South Kanara Landholders' Association, Mangalore to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras.

I have the honour to submit by separate post five copies of a report of a non-official Committee on the conditions of Life and Agriculture in 66 forest villages of the Puttur Taluk South Kanara District, as also the proceedings of a meeting of the villagers on the said report printed therein.

Though in the first instance the object of the enquiry was in connection with the coming re-settlement the disclosures made in the course of the enquiry are of a so serious nature that I venture to request Government to be pleased to give their serious attention to the various matters contained

in the report and the proceedings thereon.

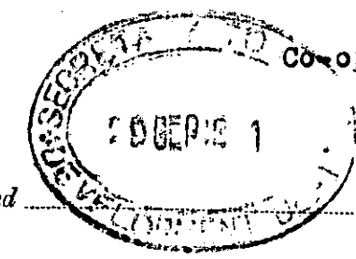
As these matters relate to various departments of Government, I am addressing you on the subject and have enclosed five copies.

Will you be good enough to let me know what action, if any, Government intend taking in the matter ?

Dev. 2773-III
29-9-31

84

Co-operative DEPARTMENT.



Received ..... 19 *Registered* 19

Subject.

Co-operative Societies - Puttur taluk (S.Kanara Dt.) - Working of.

ENCLOSURES.
No. ....
....
Spare copies.....

No. B 4623/31

Station Camp: Rameswaram....., *Dated the* 27th September 19 31

From (Name) M.R.Ry.Rao Bahadur K.Deivasikhamani Mudaliya Avl.,
(Designation) Ag.Registrar of Co-operative Societies
Madras.

To The Secretary to the Government of Madras,
DEVELOPMENT Department.

Sir,

Ref: Government endorsement No.2221-III/31-1 dated 19th Aug. 1931.

The Deputy Registrar, Mangalore, who has been asked to send a report in regard to the suggestions made by the Puttur Taluk Forest Villages Committee, says that he will not be able to visit the Puttur area before the end of the current month and that he will send a report early in October.

(P.T.O.)

2. As observed by the Forest Committee, there are several societies in the area which have worked badly. Unlike in other districts, the Co-operative movement in South Kanara was and is largely in the hands of the non-official co-operators, the most prominent of them being Mr. Molahalli Shiva Rao who now takes a leading part in other spheres like village panchayats and forest panchayats. He was a member of the Forest Committee which made the report referred to in the Government memorandum above. The South Kanara Central Bank of which Mr. Shiva Rao was the moving spirit was guided mostly by the non-official co-operators in the matter of sanctioning loans from a very early stage of the development of the movement in the district. Mr. Shiva Rao kept himself aloof from the movement for about two years or so and entered other spheres of work. I repeatedly pointed out to him that he should not cut himself away from the movement when he complained that the societies were bad and that he should come back and pull up the societies which were generally of his creation. He has now become the President of the Central Bank. The present management of the Bank is making great attempts to set right societies and it is hoped that before long the bad societies will be either mended or ended.

3. In regard to the suggestion that long term loans should be given either through land mortgage banks or other agencies, I have to state that owing to the difficulty of raising debenture money in the present financial stringency, new land mortgage banks are not being started. Further, the period of ten years for which the Central Land Mortgage Bank now lends money may not go far to help the ryots in South Kanara. The question of organizing land mortgage banks in South Kanara will be considered when the Central Land Mortgage Bank is in a position to lend money for long periods.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

K Devasthanam
27.9.21

Ag. Registrar.

36

Cooperative **DEPARTMENT.**

Received ..... 19 . *Registered* Dev. 3368 III 19
20-11-31

Subject.

COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES - Puttur Taluk - (South Kanara District) Working of -

ENCLOSURES.
No. .....
.....
Spare copies .....

No. B.6176/31

Station Chepauk, Madras., *Dated the* 18th November 1931.

From (Name) D.N. Strathie Esq., I.C.S.,
(Designation) Registrar of Cooperative Societies.

To The Secretary to the Government of Madras,
Development Department.
Fort St. George.

Sir,

Ref:- Govt. endorsement No.2221-III/31 dated 19-8-31 and exchange reminder dated 14-11-1931.

I invite attention to my letter No.B.4623/31 dated 27-9-1931 in which I dealt with the points raised in the report of the Puttur Taluk Forest Village Committee. I have since received a detailed report from the Deputy Registrar, Mangalore and his enquiries only serve to confirm the opinion already expressed by me.

In the first place the aliyasantana family system prevailing in this part of the district prevents junior member of the family from alienating the property jointly held by the family.

P.T.O.

In the second place the class which wants finance most in the Puttur taluk are arecanut growers. It is not ordinarily safe to advance loans to the garden planters as failure to water the garden even for one year affects the produce and reduces the value of the land to such an extent that the security originally offered becomes worthless. The lessons learnt from the failure of the Arecanut Garden Planters Society (liquidated) cannot be easily set at naught when devising any future schemes for financing the ryots in this area.

As to the bad societies referred to in the report I have only to point out that as in all other districts there are good, bad and indifferent societies in the Puttur taluk also, perhaps a larger percentage of bad societies in the Puttur Union on account of the inefficiency of the Supervising agency. Mr. Molahalli Shiva Rao, a member of the Forest Villages Committee was once the President of the Central Bank and the foremost Cooperator in the District. Under his guidance a number of societies were started in the Puttur area. Unfortunately for several reasons many of them have become dormant. Mr. Shiva Rao's enthusiasm cooled for a while and he sought other spheres for his activities. Latterly however he began to realise his moral responsibility with regard to the societies that he had once started and developed and he has come back as the President of the Central Bank. -In view of the observations of the Forest Village Committee it can only be hoped that he will continue to work with unabated energy for the rectification of the bad societies.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

C Narayanan Rao 19/11/31

For Registrar.

Rs. 19.11.p.

10.11.31

C.No.1810-I. Development Dep

Sub: Report on the conditions of life and agriculture in the Forest villages of Puttur taluk in South Kanara District.

To A.S.

Please see letter from Mr.Karant on pp.1-3 c. and the report at 'A The several requests of th Committee are given in the concluding paragraphs 3 and 40 on pp.20-23 of the Report. Of the several requests contained in these two paras, this sectio is concerned only with the forest matters containe in para.40(a)

Para 39 relates to Revenue, paras 40(b) and (d) relate to L.S.G., 40(c) to Co-operation, '40(e) to Law (Education) Dept. Copies of Mr.Karant's letter on pp.2-3 c.f. and of the report may be sen to these departments for necessary action.

Please see ~~Ors~~ Secy of the Rev Dept. at pp 32-33 cf. Action has already been taken on the report. The Secy may be advised to file the

Ices 28.8.31 1/9.

(From the Regr C.S No B-4623/31, d 27.8.31) pp 34-35 cf 29/8/31 Ices 31.8.31

To U.S

Please see the reply of the Regr at pp.34-35. The report referred to in para 1 of the reply may be awaited now

Ices 2.9.31 5.9.31 5/10

(From the Regr. C.S. No. B. 6176/31 d 18.11.31)

To U.S

Please see the reports of the Regr. at pp 34-37 cf. It will appear that Mrs N. Shiva Rao, who is a member of the Trust Villages Committee was once the President of the Central Bank and was the foremost co-operator. Mrs Shiva Rao was devoting his attention to other spheres for a while. At this time the societies in the taluk were in a bad condition. Mrs Rao has come back as President of the Central Bank and it is hoped that the position of the societies will be improved.

As regards loans grant of long term loans thro' the agency of land mortgage banks, reference is made to the remarks of the Regr. in para 3 of his letter at pp 35 cf.

No action seems necessary. The papers may be recorded.

Ices 5.12.31 9.12.31 26/12